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Paul Gregory

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Paul Gregory : Behind the Facade of Stalin's Command Economy: Evidence from the Soviet State and Party Archives (Hoover Institution Press Publication) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Behind the Facade of Stalin's Command Economy: Evidence from the Soviet State and Party Archives (Hoover Institution Press Publication):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Insightful study
By Mary Schaeffer Conroy
This is an insightful study, based on newly accessible Russian archival materials, describing the mechanisms and individuals that played key roles in formulating Soviet economic policy. Soviet authorities' attention to costs, profits and prices, discussed in Paul Gregory's own chapter 2, was particularly interesting and confirmed the business-like approach to the economy on the part of Soviet managers that I discovered in the archives about the Soviet pharmaceutical industry and described in my *THE SOVIET PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESS DURING ITS FIRST TWO DECADES, 1917-1937* (Peter Lang, 2006) This is not to say that the Soviet economy was not dysfunctional. It was. Mark Harrison's contention that the Soviet Union was a "poor country" (chapter 5, p. 81) is not borne out by facts. The wealth of the country was destroyed during the Civil War and by ill-conceived policies thereafter. Otherwise, as a recognized authority on World War II, his chapter was informative--as were the others in this compilation.

The "red files" revealed. Examining the period from the early 1930s through Stalin's death in 1953--the height of the Stalinist regime--this enlightening book reveals what we have learned from the archives, what has surprised us, and what has confirmed what we already knew. Most of the authors have worked with these archives since they were opened.

About the Author
Paul R. Gregory, a Hoover Institution research fellow, holds an endowed professorship in the Department of Economics at the University of Houston, Texas, and is a research professor at the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin. The holder of a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University, he is the author or coauthor of twelve books and many articles on economic history, the Soviet economy, transition economies, comparative economics, and economic demography including *Lenin's Brain and Other Tales from the Secret Soviet Archives* (Hoover Institution Press, 2008), *The Political Economy of Stalinism* (2004), *Before Command: The Russian Economy from Emancipation to Stalin* (1994), *Restructuring the Soviet Economic Bureaucracy* (1990, reissued 2006), and *Russian National Income, 1885-1913* (1982, reissued 2005). He has edited *Behind the Facade of Stalin's Command Economy* (2001) and *The Economics of Forced Labor: The Soviet Gulag* (2003), both published by Hoover Institution Press and summarizing his research group's work on the Soviet state and party archives. His publications based on work in the Hoover Institution Archives have been awarded the Hewett Book Prize and the J.M. Montias Prize for the best article in the *Journal of Comparative Economics*. The research of his Hoover Soviet Archives Research Project team is summarized in part in "Allocation under Dictatorship: Research in Stalin's Archive" (coauthored with Hoover fellow Mark Harrison), published in the *Journal of Economic Literature*.